



# The Croydon Chronicle

Spring/Summer 2016

## Letter from the Supervisor

One of the best things about spring and summer at Croydon Creek Nature Center is the fact that these seasons bring us so many visitors, new and old! We love to see longtime friends come back when the weather warms and it is great to meet new friends who are finding us for the first time.

For all of our friends who want to find out what is going on at CCNC there are so many options to stay up to date. You can check out our website at [www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek) where you'll find the latest information on upcoming programs, birthday parties, rentals and so much more. You can also follow us on Facebook, join our mailing list by sending us an email at [ccnc@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:ccnc@rockvillemd.gov) or view the City of Rockville's latest recreation guides which are available online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation).

Now in our 14<sup>th</sup> year of operation, we have some great traditions established that allow us to show our visitors just how much we appreciate them. A great one is our annual **Spring Festival and**

**Native Plant Sale on April 30, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** This year, we decided to forego the preorder aspect of the sale in lieu of a "first come first served" approach. This allows us greater flexibility in choosing the plants and eliminates that pesky deadline! We have lots of fun in store at the Spring Festival including a professional face-painter, a live bat show from The Save Lucy Campaign and activities and crafts for the family. Dawson's Market will also bring their barbeque tent to provide us with grilled lunches that you can purchase.

We also have a many opportunities for volunteering this spring and summer. Our **Creek Critters Service Learning** program on June 11, 2016 is an opportunity to earn SSL hours while learning how to use The Audubon Naturalist Society's Creek Critters app. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with summer camps. This is a great way to earn SSL hours and is perfect for teens who enjoy nature and working with children. All volunteers must be at least 14 yrs old and will have to complete

a volunteer application in order to be considered. The application can be found on our website.

There is one other volunteer event happening region-wide that we wanted to point out. The D.C. Bioblitz is scheduled for May 20-21, 2016. A bioblitz is a collaborative event where teams of professionals and amateurs help identify as many different types of species as possible in a 24-hr period. While this is not affiliated with CCNC, it is a fantastic opportunity to help document the biodiversity in our region. For questions and updated information email [bioblitz@ngs.org](mailto:bioblitz@ngs.org)

We're looking forward to seeing what nature has in store for us this spring and summer and we hope it includes a visit from you!

Best regards,

Elissa Totin  
Nature Center Supervisor

## Croydon Creek Nature Center

852 Avery Rd, Rockville, MD, 20851

### Phone

240-314-8770

### Web address

[www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek)

### E-mail

[ccnc@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:ccnc@rockvillemd.gov)

### Hours of Operation

Tuesday through Saturday,  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Closed Mondays

## In This Issue:

Kids corner ..... pg 2

Go Native..... pg 3

Spring programs..... pg 4

Summer programs ..... pg 5

## Plastic Water Bottle Flowers

### You will need:

- Empty plastic water bottle
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Floral wire (16 gauge works best)

### Directions:

1. Remove label from water bottle.
2. Use a sharp pair of scissors to cut around the top ring of the bottle.
3. Make 5 evenly spaced cuts from the cut edge of the bottle toward the mouth of the bottle to make a flower with 5 petals.
4. Fold down the petals as if you were turning the bottle inside out.
5. Use scissors to round off the edges of the petals.
6. Remove the bottle cap but do not throw it away. Remove and discard the plastic ring below the cap.
7. Place the flower on a protected surface with the spout facing up.
8. Apply acrylic paint to the petals. This may take 2-3 coats of paint. Allow paint to dry between coats.
9. Once the paint is dry, replace the cap.
10. Make a stem by wrapping flower wire around the gap between the lid and the neck of the bottle.

### Materials



Source: [www.thechillydog.com](http://www.thechillydog.com)

13TH ANNUAL

# Spring Festival and Native Plant Sale

**FREE**

**Saturday, April 30  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

***Bring the entire family and enjoy the wonders of nature  
in an urban setting***

- Woodland Hikes
- Spring Native Plant Sale
- Nature Games and Crafts
- Live Bat Show by the Save Lucy Campaign
- Face Painting by Kids Party Face
- Sustainability Exhibits



*Food available for purchase by Dawson's Market barbecue.*

## What is a native species?

A native species is one that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat without direct or indirect human intervention. This is to say that the scientific community considers all species that were present at the time that the Europeans arrived in North America to be native species to the United States. The term “native species” can be applied to all flora and fauna that fit this definition.



## Why native plants?

Planting native plants in your yard provides many advantages to you as a gardener. Since native plants have evolved to survive here in our local ecosystem they are adjusted to the climate. Once a native plant has established itself it has little need for watering beyond normal rainfall. Native plants have adjusted themselves to local soils, so there is also little need for fertilizer. Over time these plants have also developed many natural defenses against pests and diseases, so often it is unnecessary to use pesticides in native gardens. Not having to apply fertilizers or pesticides provides not only a cost savings benefit but also reduces the number of chemicals that are added to the environment. By reducing these human effects on our watershed we are helping not only the quality of our

drinking water but also improving water quality for plants and animals that live in and around creeks and rivers and even the Chesapeake Bay.

Native plants also provide many benefits to native wildlife; in fact, you could say that they were made for each other. Flowers on native plants attract important native pollinators such as butterflies, beetles, flies and hummingbirds. The animals benefit from the food that the flowers provide while the plant gets pollinated which furthers its life cycle. After pollination these plants eventually form fruit and seeds. These provide food for larger animals such as birds, squirrels, foxes and deer.

These plants also provide shelter for wildlife. The shelter may come in the form of a caterpillar forming its chrysalis on the leaves of the plant, ladybugs and other small insects using leaves for shelter from harsh weather conditions or a bird using parts of the plant to build their nest. Tall native grasses provide a place to hide for animals like deer and rabbits and a great habitat for prey animals of hawks, owls and foxes.

Native plants encourage biodiversity. In the United States there is approximately 20 million acres of manicured lawn. This is more than any other single crop. This monoculture does not provide the benefits of food and shelter to wildlife that native plantings do. Manicured lawns also



require much more maintenance including mowing, fertilizing and watering. All of these activities add pollutants to the environment causing more harm than good. Replacing at least some of these lawns with native plant gardens would have lasting impacts on the biodiversity of local wildlife.

## What can I do?

Consider dedicating part of your garden or lawn to native plants. Native plants can be purchased at many retailers around the area. Croydon Creek also offers a Native Plant Sale each spring. This year's sale will be on April 30, 10 am -2 pm. In lieu of our normal pre-order sale this year plants will be available for purchase on the day of the event. Find out more about plants that will be offered on our website ([www.rockvillemd.gov/croyoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croyoncreek)). For more information about plants that are native to Maryland and to find out what types of plants may be appropriate for your space check out the Maryland Native Plant Society ([www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org)) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Native Plant Guide to the Chesapeake Bay Region ([www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/bayscapes/bsresources/bs-nativeguides.html](http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/bayscapes/bsresources/bs-nativeguides.html)). Both websites provide information about plants appropriate for yards here in Montgomery County.

# Nature Center Camps 2016

Week-long camps start June 20 and run until August 24.

Full and half day options are available

**Spend your summer at the Nature Center!**

**Hike in the forest, hunt bugs in the meadow  
and wade in the creek!**

**View the Camp Guide online at  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps)**



**5-7 year olds**

Art of Nature

Guppy Nature Camp

**5-8 year olds**

**New!** Nature Play Camp



**7-10 year olds**

**New!** EcolInvestigators

**9-12 year olds**

**New!** Nature Play Camp

**10-14 year olds**

**New!** Farm to Table

Nature Service Learning

[www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek) • 240-314-8770

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Rockville, MD 20851

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# The Croydon Chronicle

## Spring Programs

### Container Herb Garden

Choose from a variety of aromatic herbs to create your very own container garden that you can enjoy all summer. A horticulturist from Smithsonian Gardens will be on hand to lead this workshop and answer your gardening questions. Age: 10+

54879 Su 5/1 1:30-2:15 PM \$14/\$17

### Croydon Creek Campfire (Adult/Child)

Gather around the campfire with your friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register.

#### Liars' Club - All Ages

Join us for a game of Liars' Club. Examine unusual objects and then hear two stories about each of the objects. One story is true and one is false. Will you be able to guess which story is the true origin of the object and which is the lie? Come to this campfire to find out.

54874 Sa 5/21 8:30-9:30 PM \$5/\$6

### Star Party

Discover objects easily visible in the night sky, look through telescopes with an astronomer and enjoy a campfire treat. All participants must register. This program is dependent on good weather and clear skies. Age: 5+

54877 Sa 5/7 8-9 PM \$7/\$9

### Nature Tots (Adult/Child)

Spend time with your child discovering the wonders of nature. A Naturalist will help you explore a new nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. This program is intended to provide special one-on-one time for you and your child. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited.

#### Salamanders - Age: 2-5

54868 Sa 4/23 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

#### Snakes - Age: 2-5

54869 Sa 5/14 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

#### Ladybugs - Age: 2-5

54870 Th 5/19 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

#### Meadow - Age: 2-5

54871 Th 6/9 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

## Nature Camp

### New! Nature Play Camp

Make the most of these last few days of summer break by spending it outdoors at CCNC. Each day will provide participants with opportunities to connect with nature through naturalist-led activities as well as unstructured open-ended discovery and creative play.

Age: 5-8

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

54349 8/22-8/24 \$180/\$220

Age: 9-12

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

54350 8/22-8/24 \$180/\$220

**See more camps listed on reverse side**

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City of  
**Rockville**  
Get Into It

#### Hours of Operation

Tuesday through Saturday,  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Closed Mondays

# Summer Programs

## Celebrate Honeybees (Adult/Child)

Learn about the amazing and gentle honeybee with our volunteer beekeeper. Explore beekeeping, honeybee biology, and extract honey from the comb. All participants must register and children under age 10 must be accompanied by a registered adult.

Age: 5+  
55914 Sa 7/23 1:30-3 PM \$5/\$6  
Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

## Creek Crawl

How many different animals live in Croydon Creek? Find out as we spend an afternoon in our aquatic habitat searching and identifying local critters. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring a towel.

Age: 3-12  
55917 Su 8/14 2-3:30 PM \$5/\$6  
Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

## Creek Critters Service Learning

Need to earn a few student service learning (SSL) hours? Enjoy exploring streams and creeks? Here's your chance to learn how to use the Audubon Naturalist Society's Creek Critters app to identify critters in our stream. The information you gather will be used to generate a stream health report for our creek. Participants should download the app from Google Play or the iTunes store prior to the event. Wear closed-toe shoes!

Age: 12-18  
56037 Sa 6/11 1-3:30 PM \$0/\$0  
Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

## Polliwog Adventures (Adult/Child)

Each week explore a new topic in natural history. Through stories, short hikes, games and activities, little ones will learn about nature in a hands-on environment. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Age: 2-5.

### Nature Senses

55903 Th 7/7 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

### Life Under A Log

55904 Th 7/14 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

### Feathers and Fur

55905 Th 7/21 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

### Snakes and Turtles

55906 Th 8/4 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

### Super Seeds

55907 Th 8/11 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

### Butterflies and Bugs

55908 Th 8/18 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

## Saturday Story and Hike (Adult/Child)

Stop by the Nature Center for storytime and a hike. Our Naturalist will read a story and lead a hike based on the story. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required.

Age: 2-5  
54864 Sa 5/21 10-11 AM \$4/\$6  
54865 Sa 6/18 10-11 AM \$4/\$6  
55911 Sa 7/16 10-11 AM \$4/\$6  
55912 Sa 8/20 10-11 AM \$4/\$6  
Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

To register visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide)

Price key:  
Resident Discount/Non Resident Rate

# Nature Camps

## Art of Nature

Hikes and nature play are the inspiration for making works of art that utilize a variety of artistic techniques, mixed media and eco-friendly supplies. Campers will observe, explore and collaborate to get their creativity flowing and hone their artistic skills to make masterpieces inspired by nature. Age: 5-7

54348 8/15-8/19 9 AM-3 PM \$215/\$245

## Guppy Nature Camp

Interested in animals that creep, crawl and flap? Meet the critters that call Croydon Creek home and explore exciting nature topics. Hands-on activities, experiments, hikes and crafts are all in a day's fun. Age: 5-7

### 9 AM-12 PM

54338 6/20-6/24 \$102/\$122  
54340 7/11-7/15 \$102/\$122  
54343 8/8-8/12 \$102/\$122

### 9 AM-3 PM

54339 6/27-7/1 \$203/\$240  
54341 7/18-7/22 \$203/\$240  
54342 7/25-7/29 \$203/\$240